

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

*Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney*

*2100 Jamieson Avenue (703)299-3700
Alexandria, Virginia 22314*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Alexandria, Virginia
January 18, 2006

For further information contact the
US Attorney's Office 703-842-4050

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that James Arness Erby, of Prince Georges County, Maryland, was convicted yesterday by a jury in the Eastern District of Virginia, on all four counts in a four count indictment. Counts one and two charged the defendant with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Count three charged the defendant with conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. Count 4 charged the defendant with carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Erby will be sentenced on April 28, 2006, and faces a potential Life sentence.

Erby, a convicted felon, shot and killed James Ridley outside of a Subway restaurant in Springfield, Virginia, on December 30, 2004. He used the same firearm that he had used to shoot another individual on October 15, 2004, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. The defendant was also an armed ecstasy dealer who made regular trips to Spotsylvania to sell ecstasy.

The case was investigated by the Fairfax County Police Department, Spotsylvania County Sheriff Department, Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from the Prince Georges County Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jonathan Fahey and James Trump.

###